

City of Springfield
South End Revitalization Project
Frequently Asked Questions

Q. When would we see the first changes in the neighborhood?

A. The City anticipates starting the first phase of construction during the summer of 2009.

Q. How is this project going to benefit me as a homeowner or renter in the South End?

A. Homeowners will be able to enjoy the improvements of the streets, sidewalks, lighting and major upgrades to Emerson Wight Park. New street connections will improve access for public safety vehicles. The plan also calls for improvements and enhanced management for the historic buildings along Oswego, Dwight Street Extension, Bayonne and Niagara and the SHA Marble Street property. Together with the infrastructure improvements, these changes will improve the quality of life in South End and potentially increase the property value of existing homes.

Q. How is this project going to benefit me as a Landlord?

A. As a landlord, the proposed improvements will upgrade the area around your property, potentially increasing property values and encouraging further private investment in the community.

Q. What are the future plans for the Gemini site?

A. In early 2008, a retail and housing market analysis was done for the South End and it indicates there is potential for a commercial-residential mix-use development on the site. No decisions have been made thus far and it is our expectation that improvements made in the early phases of this project will encourage a higher end development that can better serve the neighborhood.

Q. How will this project affect the park?

A. As currently proposed, the project will make major upgrades to Emerson Wight Park and greenspace, as well as adding new play structures and lighting.

Q. What happens if my property is directly impacted by this project?

A. While very few properties will be directly impacted by this project, those that are, will receive the full benefit of a relocation professional who will discuss an array of options available. He/she will assist you in determining which option works best for you and your family.

Q. Where is the City getting the money from to fund this project?

A. The City is planning to use funding from a series of City and State resources. The primary source is approximately \$6.2M approved by the Springfield Finance Control Board, which in this case will come from new general obligation bond issuances. The City will also use about \$1M in funding from its annual FY09 Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Funding is also planned to come from the State through three programs: the Community Development Action Grant (CDAG), Public Works and

Economic Development (PWED) grant, the Transit Oriented Development (TOD) grant, and a Priority Development Fund grant each of which are awarded to cities through a competitive process.

Q. How can I stay involved in the process?

A. Since the beginning of 2008, a group of local South End and City-wide stakeholders have been convening regularly to review market information and listen to early recommendations from the City and its consultants regarding the South End Public Realm Plan. This group, the "South End Revitalization Coalition", will continue to be the City's partner as more detailed plans for the infrastructure improvements are developed.

Q. How long will this project take to be completed?

A. The City anticipates the first phase of construction to commence in 2009 and end in 2011. Subsequent phases of the plan may overlap but the City anticipates the entire public realm improvements to be completed by 2013.

Q. Who should I call if I have more questions about this project?

A. Please call Samalid Hogan, Project Manager at the City of Office Springfield Planning and Economic Development. She can be reached at 413-787-6020 or by email at shogan@springfieldcityhall.com.